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**AB 2699 EXEMPTING VOLUNTEER MEDICAL PERSONNEL
FROM LICENSE REQUIREMENTS FOR SHORT DURATIONS
MOVES CLOSER TO VOTE ON SENATE FLOOR**

***Approval of AB 2699 sets the stage for a Senate Appropriations Committee vote
to on whether to lift exemptions on out-of-state medical professionals***

LOS ANGELES – Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas today applauded the State Senate Business, Professional and Economic Development Committee's approval of pending legislation, setting the stage for a July vote by the Senate Appropriations Committee on whether to allow out-of-state medical personnel to volunteer at events for limited periods of time.

Calling it a victory for events such as the Remote Area Medical/Los Angeles -- which serves thousands with its traveling free clinics -- the Supervisor said AB 2699 is a "step closer to removing the restrictions and licensure regulations that prevent organizations from providing much-needed volunteer medical services to the County's uninsured and underinsured."

At their November 10, 2009 meeting, the Board of Supervisors approved Supervisor Ridley-Thomas' request to direct the County's Chief Executive Officer to pursue the state legislation supporting the exemption from licensure within California for out-of-state licensed medical personnel in "good standing," including physicians, dentists, nurses and other health professionals.

When he was in the State Legislature, the Supervisor chaired the Senate Committee on Business, Professional and Economic Development, which has oversight over medical licenses.

At his request, Speaker Emeritus Karen Bass carried AB 2699, which would help ensure that no one who is in need of healthcare is turned away and that their healthcare needs are met during future free medical clinics.

The Remote Area Medical (RAM) organization is internationally known for the hundreds of medical professionals – many of whom reside outside of the states they serve – who eagerly volunteer their service and participate in the free clinics at their own expense.

At the RAM/LA clinic held April 27 through May 3 this year, volunteers were overwhelmed by the huge demand for dental services, as the need nearly doubled from that of the RAM/LA clinic held in August 2009. Over 14,561 uninsured and underinsured residents were served during the event, which took place Aug. 11 through Aug. 18 at the Forum in Inglewood.

The organization distributed 1,984 free pairs of eye glasses, extracted 2,274 teeth, provided 5,438 fillings, served 988 women for women's health issues, and provided 1,585 people with acupuncture treatment.

"The services were free to anyone seeking care, at no cost to the taxpayers and the government," the Supervisor said.

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